



Press Release

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North Coast Receives \$25 Million for Water and Environmental Restoration Projects

Santa Rosa, CA – On January 18th the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) announced approval of \$25 million in grants to the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The funding will result in greater water supply reliability, clean water, water recycling, environmental restoration and fisheries, and watershed planning through projects included in the North Coast IRWMP. The funding is provided from Proposition 50, a water bond measure passed by voters in 2004.

Of the sixteen grant proposals received by the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Board the North Coast IRWMP received the highest ranking overall.

“The incentive provided by Proposition 50 funding has led to regional planning efforts throughout the state that will help to improve water supplies, water quality, and the natural environment of California,” said John Woodling, Chief, Conjunctive Water Management Branch, California Department of Water Resources. “The North Coast integrated regional plan is an extraordinary effort to bring together interests from a large and diverse area for mutual benefit. It effectively incorporates the water management approaches we are trying to encourage in California.”

The North Coast IRWMP was developed by a coalition of cities, counties, tribes, special districts, non-governmental organizations, watershed groups and interested stakeholders from Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino and Sonoma counties. The coalition has spent the last two years working to create the comprehensive plan that will enhance the beneficial uses of water, recover salmonid populations and promote intra-regional cooperation and local autonomy throughout the North Coast Region.

“This regional plan is the product of a tremendously dedicated team of representatives from seven northern counties. They shared their knowledge and energy to create one of the most encompassing water-related documents in the State.” said Humboldt County Supervisor and Chair of the North Coast IRWMP Policy Review Panel Jimmy Smith.

Local projects benefiting from funding include: upgrades to Graton’s wastewater treatment facility; the construction of new sewer collection, treatment and disposal for the community of Monte Rio; and habitat restoration and enhancement for seven federally-protected salmon, steelhead and plant species through the implementation of Sonoma County’s Water Recycling and Habitat Preservation Project.

Development of the plan also enabled several North Coast communities to secure and leverage funding through other state grant programs. Taken together, funding from Propositions 40 and 50 will total some \$38 million. Proposition 84, approved by the voters in November 2006, will add an additional \$37 million in funding for North Coast Regional Plan projects and up to \$45 million in grants for the restoration of coastal salmon and steelhead populations.

For more information regarding the North Coast's Integrated Regional Water Management Planning effort please visit www.northcoastirwmp.net.

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.